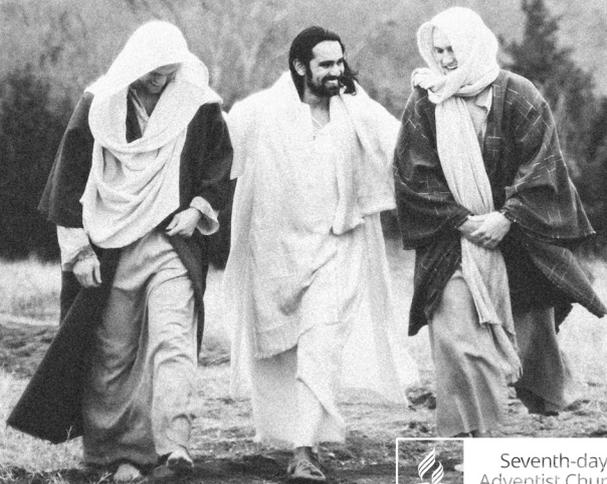


# MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES & CHURCHES CONVERSATION GUIDE

New Environments to  
Experience God & Community

PETER ROENNFELDT

A RESOURCE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION  
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES TEAM  
JANUARY 2018



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

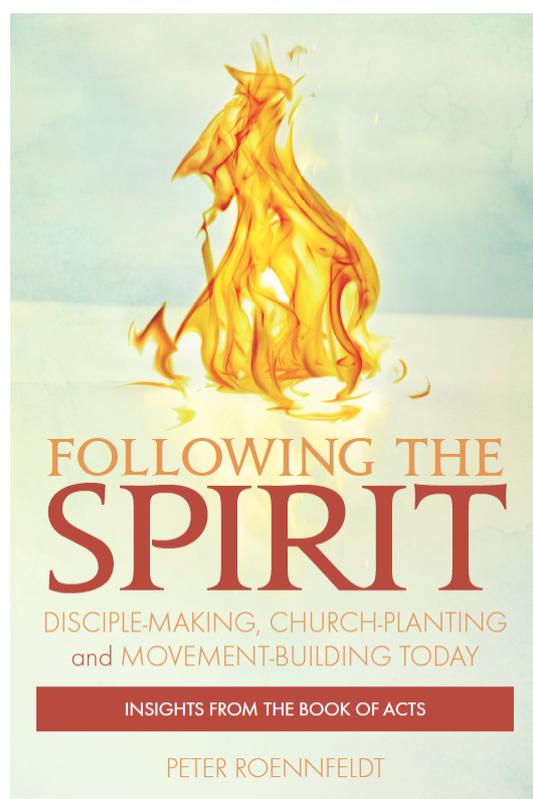
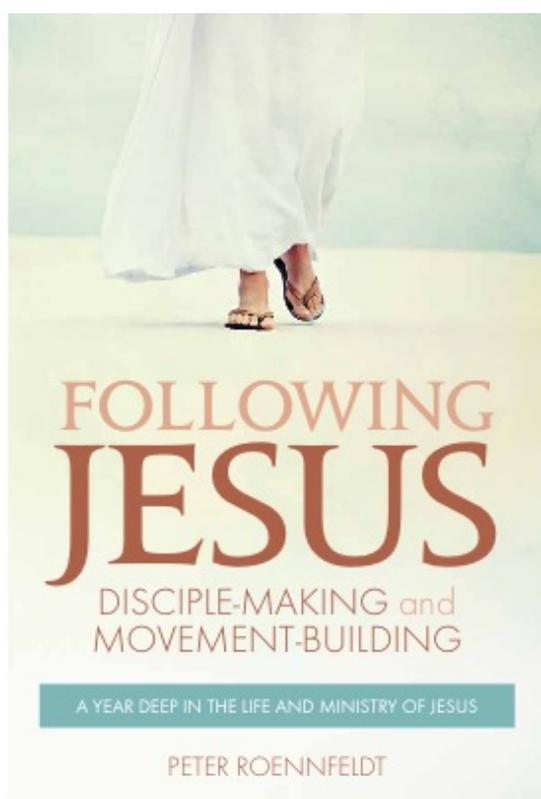
*South Pacific*



## DISCIPLE MAKING & CHURCH PLANTING RESOURCES

***Following Jesus.*** Walk through the Gospels. Explore in depth Jesus' journey and His example and teaching of disciple making and movement building.

***Following the Spirit.*** Be inspired. Explore the book of Acts—experience the resilience of early believers in disciple making, church planting and movement building.



Available:

- Online: [www.hopeshop.com](http://www.hopeshop.com)
- In store: Adventist Book Centres
- eBook: Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06XCMN7LN>
- Videos & links: [www.following-jesus.com](http://www.following-jesus.com)

For bookmarks and other resources:

- Resources & Training: [DiscipleshipDA@adventist.org.au](mailto:DiscipleshipDA@adventist.org.au)

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## GETTING STARTED

Jesus began His ministry making disciples. Before He ascended He commanded: *'Go and make disciples of all nations.'* (Matthew 28:19)<sup>1</sup> **This is our commission.** On the evening of His resurrection, He said: *'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'* (John 20:21)

**A disciple is a person who in every way is becoming more like Jesus** (Ephesians 4:15)—including, as disciple-makers.

### **A new church is a gathering of new disciples**

While **the Gospels outline Jesus' method and model of disciple making, the book of Acts is our guidebook for planting new churches.** A basic insight from Paul's missionary journeys of church planting is: each local church that is planted is responsible to multiply. And note this observation: *'Upon all who believe, God has placed a burden of raising up churches'* (E. G. White, *Medical Ministry*, 315).

### **A church planting movement**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is to be a movement – a movement of church planting. This is how it started, and this is how it will complete its work. God has called us to plant new and multiplying communities of faith in un-entered places. This is the work that God has placed upon all disciples – all believers, pastors and leaders:

*'Our ministers (speaking of pastors) are not to spend their time laboring for those who have already accepted the truth. With Christ's love burning in their hearts, they are to go forth to win sinners to the Saviour. Beside all waters they are to sow the seeds of truth. Place after place is to be visited; **church after church is to be raised up. Those who take their stand for the truth are to be organized into churches, and then the minister is to pass on to other equally important fields'** (E. G. White, *7 Testimonies*, 19-20).*

New believers ... “are to be organized into churches.” Further:

*'We must do more than we have done to reach the people of our cities. We are not to erect large buildings in the cities, but over and over again the light has been given me that **we should establish in all our cities small plants which shall be centres of influence'** (E. G. White, *7 Testimonies*, 115).*

This *conversation guide* is designed to equip you and your team to make disciples and plant 'church after church' – churches that multiply. This is what the apostle Paul did. He planted multiple churches, and they multiplied. His two years and three month's work in Ephesus resulted in churches multiplying across what is Turkey today – and, 'all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the Word of the Lord' (Acts 19:10).

Welcome to the challenges, excitement, rewards and drama of planting new communities of faith – of gathering new disciples into multiplying churches. This puts you on the cutting edge of mission; it is a spiritual journey that demands teamwork, faith, and prayer.

Peter Roennfeldt

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<sup>1</sup> Bible references are from the *New International Version*, Holman Bible Publishers, 1986.

## DISCIPLE MAKING & PLANTING TEAMS

Because Jesus always worked with teams, equipping His disciples to do the same, we equip in teams. We form teams of 3-4 to discuss this guide. We can work through this guide over 5-6 days, or do a section each day over 5-6 weeks.

FORM A TEAM OF 3-4:

During this training time:

- a. Learn to **pray together conversationally**.
- b. Read and re-read **your textbooks, the Gospels and the book of Acts**.
- c. Work through this *Conversation Guide* and **put into practice** what you learn.
- d. **Look for a 'person-of-peace'**—check out what Jesus said in Luke 10:8-9 – and do it.
- e. Share your journey with other believers, **encourage them to make disciples and form more church planting teams**. Watch for the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of others, fan that spark of interest and multiply your work.

RECORD ACTION PLANS:

Who will record the decisions in your team?

Make a list of those who you could encourage, even while you are training, to form another group that will multiply into another, and another.

# THE GREAT COMMISSION

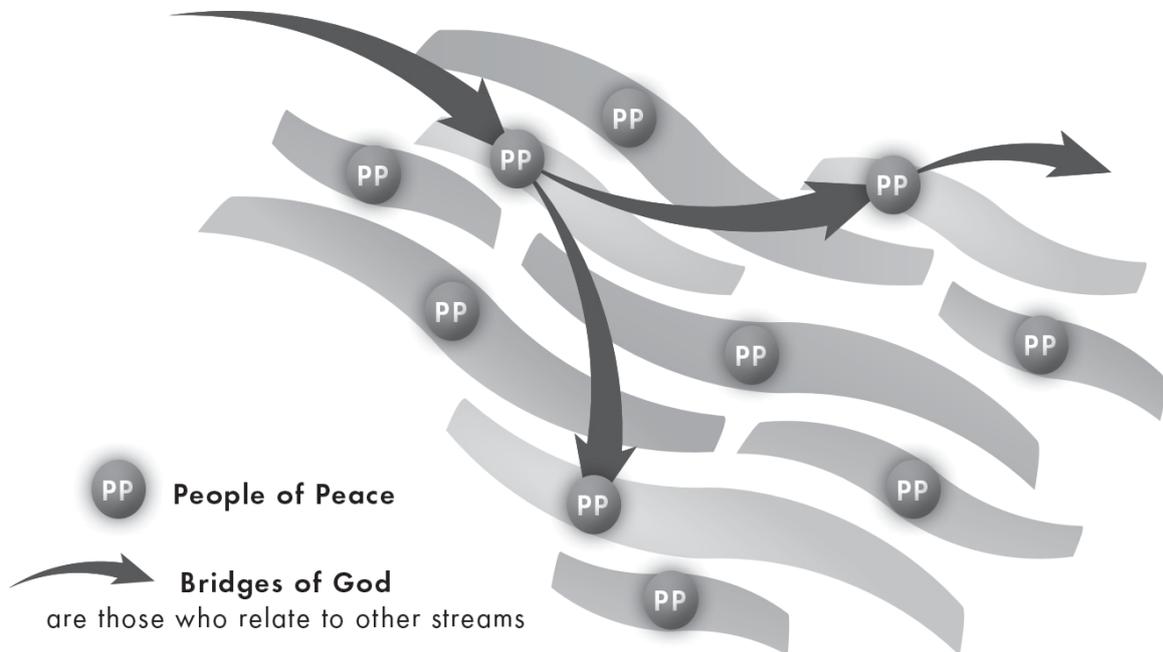
Matthew 28:16-20

Read using the *Discovery Bible Reading* process (see page 22 for details)

- One person will read Matthew 28:16-20 - then another will read the same verses.
- Then one will share the story in their own words – with the others helping.

1. What one thing did Jesus commission disciples to do?
2. The word 'nations' is *ethne*. What does this mean for disciple making?

## The Relational Streams Approach



3. **VISION:** What is God's vision for disciple making?

New disciples are able to make and multiply disciples.

A gathering of new multiplying disciples is a new church plant.

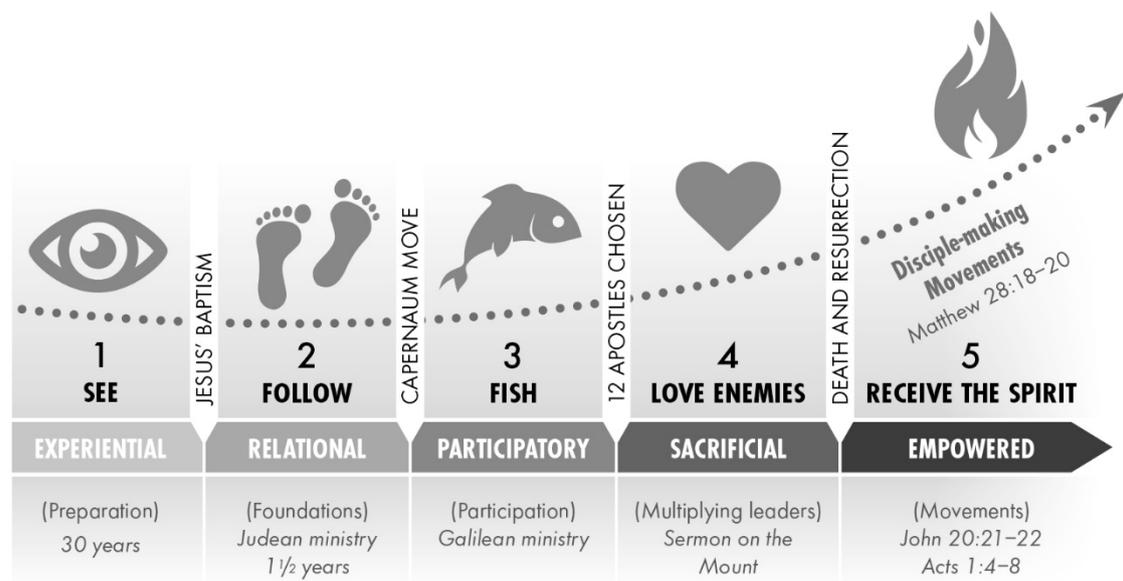
4. **MISSION:** The reason why your church plant will exist:

# Jesus' method

**PHASES OF MOVEMENT** – Jesus used five invitations & disciples used His method

## John 1:19-51 – Jesus calling His first disciples

Jesus gave His first invitation to *Come and See* after His baptism and temptations. The response of John's two disciples who spent the day with Him indicates that Jesus shared with them the evidence of His messiahship – from the first 30 years of His life (the Preparation phase). This is why *Come and See* is the Preparation invitation.



What can you apply for your disciple making and church planting?

- Preparation phase – **Come and See** (John 1:35-39)
- Foundations phase – **Follow Me** (John 1:43)
- Participation-training – **Fish with Me** (Matthew 4:18-20)
- Multiplying leaders – **Love your enemies/sacrifice with Me** (Matt 5:43-45; 16:24)
- Movements phase – **Receive the Spirit** (John 20:21-22)

**DISCIPLE MAKING** – Jesus used five invitations & disciples use His method

**John 4:1-42 – Jesus calling the Samaritan woman to be a disciple**

**Read using the *Discovery Bible Reading* process to review John 4:1-42.**

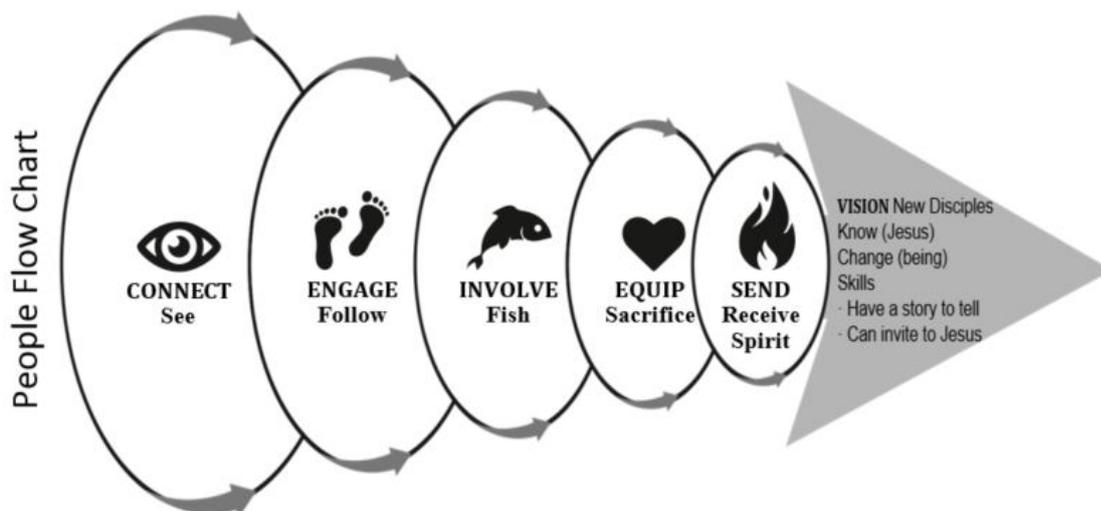
From first contact Jesus was equipping disciples to use His five invitations to make and multiply disciples. Identify the five invitations (above) in His witness to the Samaritan woman at the well and how she immediately followed His example.

Within a few minutes the Samaritan woman could share her testimony and invite others to Jesus. How did Jesus lead her? –

- To know Him (come & see)
  
- To be like Him (follow Me)
  
- To be able to (fish with Me) –
  - Share her experience of Him
  
  - Invite others to ‘come and see’

**ACTIVITY:** Use the People Flow Chart to identify –

- 1) where are you on this journey of discipleship and
- 2) where are your core church planting team members on this journey:

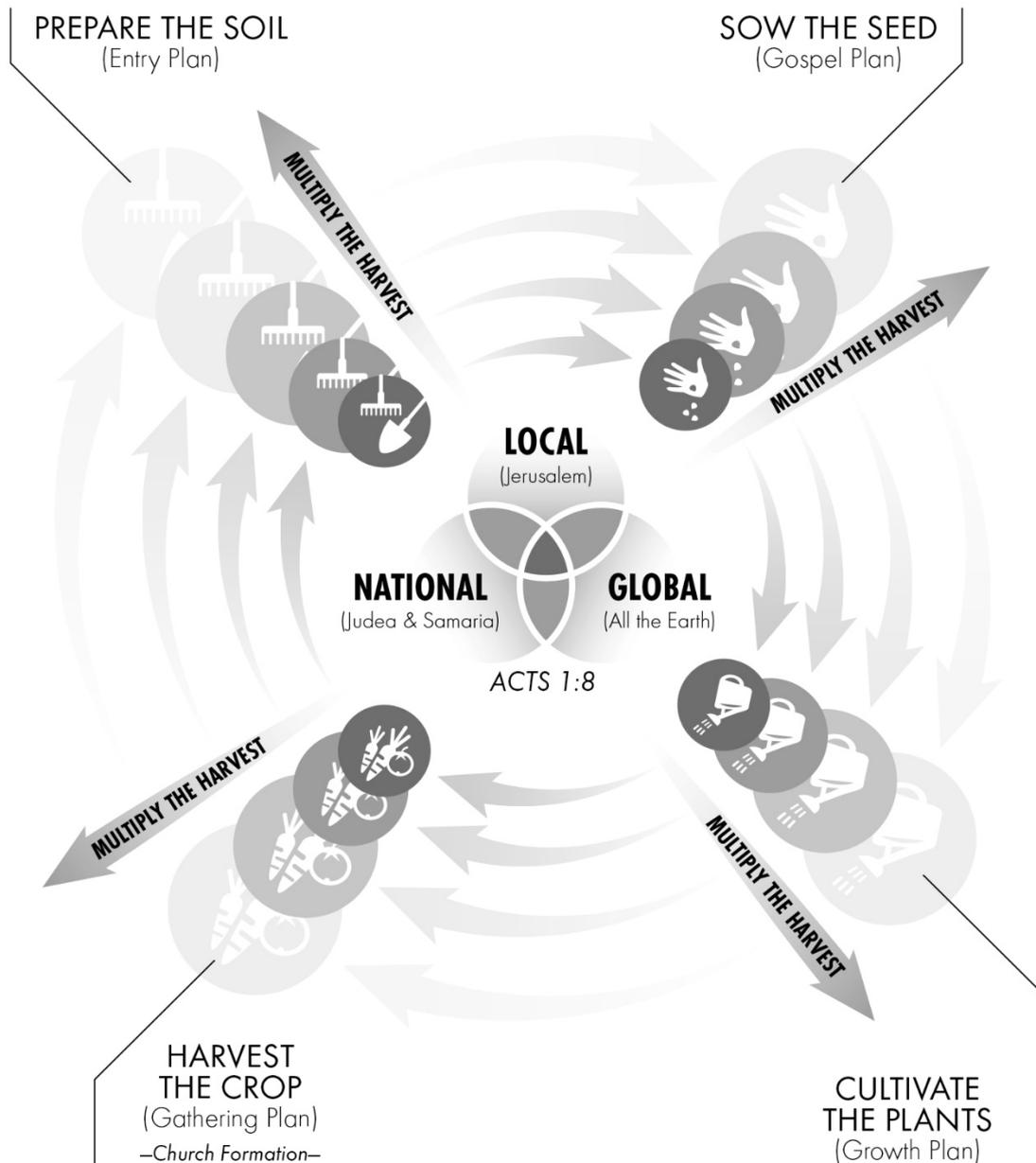


# Harvest model - Mark 4:26-29

Use the *Discovery Bible Reading* process to review **Mark 4:26-29** (cf. 4:3-20)

Jesus shared *harvest* parables to reveal ‘the secret of the kingdom of God’. (Mark 4:11, 26)  
 We use the parable of *four types of soils* – with the ‘good soil’ (prepared, cultivated, and full of manure) producing a ‘multiplying’ crop (Mark 4:3-20); as well as the *harvest model* (Mark 4:26-29) – sometimes referred to as the *four fields*.<sup>1</sup> It is one field, but the field changes.

Discuss this agricultural and disciple making model.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Nathan and Kari Shank, *Reproducing Churches Using Simple Tools*, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Peter Roennfeldt, *Following Jesus: disciple-making and movement-building*, Signs, 2017: 134

# Jesus' disciple making – Luke 10:1-24

Use the *Discovery Bible Reading* process to review **Luke 10:1-9**

After a short time, Jesus had many disciples. (John 3:22; 4:1-2) When He called the twelve to be *apostles* He had a 'crowd of disciples'. (Luke 6:12-19) Luke 10 tells of Him calling and training many more. This was five or six months before His crucifixion. We will look carefully at how He trained these disciples to make new disciples.

STEPS IN DISCIPLE MAKING & CHURCH PLANTING: An overlay of Jesus' teaching on entering new fields (Luke 10:1-24) with His *harvest model* (Mark 4:26-29) reveals five steps:

## DISCIPLE MAKING

1. **Prepare** (empty field):
2. **Sow**:
3. **Cultivate** (growing 'all by itself'):

## CHURCH PLANTING

4. **Harvest** (Gather):
5. **Multiply**:

Farmers in the Middle East harvest to sow new fields the next season. They keep the best to plant again – to multiply. They 'sow in tears' – 'weeping', for their families are hungry; but they cannot eat the seed, they must plant or next season they will starve. (See Psalm 126:5, 6.) This is a foundational idea. How would you understand this for friends you are leading to be disciples?

# DISCIPLE MAKING

*'CHRIST'S method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me".'* (MH143)

## 1. PREPARE

### The field and people where you will make disciples

[1] **TEAMS:** going 'two by two'

Jesus worked in teams. He sent them 'two by two', 'ahead of Him' (Luke 10:1).

- a. Where did Jesus find the first members of His team of disciples?  
Compare John 1:35-51 with Matthew 4:12-22
- b. Where will we find our team members? Compare Matthew 9:35-38 and Luke 10:2

**RESTRUCTURE SABBATH SCHOOL CLASSES** (also Women's ministry, Youth groups etc.) into 6-12 people who live near each other – and they become a team to work their area with activities, branch Sabbath Schools, and *Discovery Bible Reading* groups.

### **BRANCH CHURCHES—OR SMALL GROUP NETWORK.**

**FOR OTHER TEAMS:** Who could you invite to join you? Where will you find them?

- c. Know the **SHAPE** of your team.

Spiritual Gifts

Heart passion (character)

Abilities (competencies)

Personality (chemistry)

Experiences

[2] **PLACES:** where you will work

Name the empty field (the people and places) where you will work?

- **Places that are close:**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **Places that are distant:**

How would you describe those you will work with?

- a. How would you describe their families, communities or relational streams?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Who are some of the key people in their relational streams?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. What do you see God doing in their lives?

What things will you do to prepare the places where you will work?

What community service projects are needed in this area?



[4] **CONNECT:** Luke 10:5-9, 16

1. How did Jesus connect?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How will you connect with your community?

What are the qualities of the 'person-of-peace'? (Luke 10:5-7)

- Hospitable
- Receptive
- Reputation
- Influence

Look for these qualities in –

- The Samaritan woman: John 4:1-42
- Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10
- The demon possessed man: Mark 5:1-20

Why concentrate on this person?

This person is key in distant places:

Can you identify a 'person-of-peace'?

## 2. SOW

### Three Steps: Their story, our story and God's story

What **three steps** for evangelism did Jesus follow and teach? Luke 10:8-9

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### [1] EAT THEIR FOOD - LISTEN TO THEIR STORY

While you eat, what do you need to do?

#### [2] HEAL THEM - SHARE YOUR STORY

Life is 4-dimensional: see Luke 2:52 – mental, physical, spiritual and social.

How can you heal or meet people's needs?

**Encouragement:** suggest a N.E.W S.T.A.R.T

**Prayer for God's healing.**

**Sharing your story** is like a **bridge** to God's story. You know what it is to be healed—God has healed you. Jesus told the delivered demoniac: *'Return home and tell how much God has done for you. So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him'*. (Luke 8:3) Write down a few points under each heading:

1. Your life before you met Jesus (or your early years):

In one word (for example: fearful, searching, angry, lost, etc.)

2. How you met Jesus:

In one sentence

3. How your life changed:

In one word (for example: peace, secure, care, etc.)

**ACTIVITY: Sharing Your Story**

1. With another, practice telling your story in three minutes.
2. A good place to begin sharing your story and God's story is with the people you know – your circle of relationships including family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. List the people you know who are not yet followers of Jesus.
3. Identify five people you can pray for every day and begin sharing your story with each one. Carry a list of their names in your wallet, purse or mobile phone.
4. Who will you share your story with this week?

### **[3] TELL GOD'S STORY - GOSPEL PRESENTATION**

Listening to their story and sharing your story provides opportunity to share God's story. Which scripture could you use to explain the gospel?

**Mark 16:9-20** – Jesus defined the gospel

**I Corinthians 15:1-11** – Paul succinctly explains the gospel.

**Romans 3:21-26** – Paul shares how to be right with God.

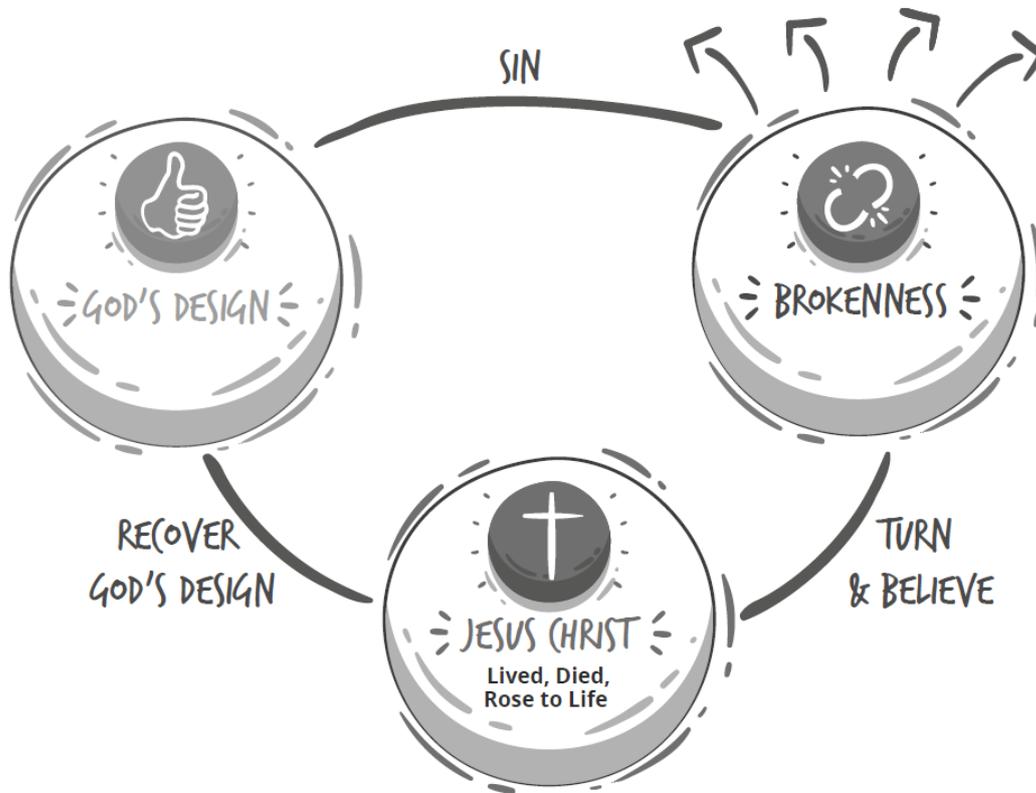
What other scriptures could you use?

(Remember, use a passage or story of scripture, not a string of verses.)

Choose a bridge to sharing:

- Family and friends of a new disciple: 'I have made a decision to become a follower of Jesus. I would like to tell you about it.'
- Family and friends of existing disciples: 'I have never shared with you why I became a follower of Jesus and the difference He makes in my life. I would like to tell you about it.'
- Someone you meet: 'If you could know God personally, would you be interested?' or, 'I would like to show you from the Bible how you can know God personally.'

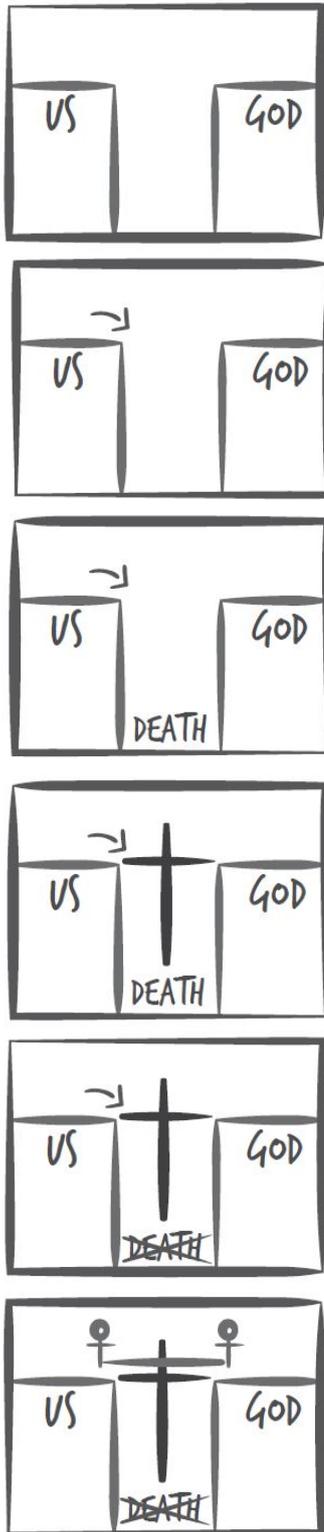
## Three Circles - Gospel Presentation



- Which circle do you think you are in?
- Where would you like to be?
- What is stopping you from living according to God's design?

NOTE: For other gospel presentations see the notes in the World Changers Bible.

## The Bridge - Gospel Presentation



- **Where are you?**
- **Where would you like to be?**
- **Is there anything that holds you from crossing the bridge?**

# Discovery Bible Reading

We encourage our contacts or friends to form a group to read a Gospel. Meet with friends at work for lunch, share with your family, or share with a group of people in your community. We call this a **Discovery Bible Reading** group. Many know almost nothing about Jesus – or have very distorted views of who He is! And of course, many Christians (and maybe you!) have not read a Gospel from beginning to end.

- If a Christian – we will discover much about Jesus by reading a Gospel through.
- If no knowledge of Jesus – you will be surprised by what Jesus was really like.

## OUTLINE

- Friends meet to read stories of Jesus (the gospel of Mark is a good place to start)
- One person prays a prayer like this:  
“Dear God, please guide us. Thank You.”
- Start at the beginning, reading one story at a time.
- Read each story through twice, then retell the story in your own words.

## Discuss the story using 5 questions:

1. What is new?
2. What surprises you?
3. What don't you understand?
4. What will you obey or apply?
5. What will you share with someone this week?

- Plan when to meet to read again.
- Pray for each other, something like this:  
“Dear God, Thank You for Your Word.  
Help us to follow You. Amen.”

## IDEAS—SUGGESTIONS

- If you don't understand something, don't argue—you will read more!
- Invite other people to join you.
- Give each person a bookmark.
- Encourage others to form groups.

## WHEN YOU MEET TO READ AGAIN

You could ask:

1. Who have you met or caught up with?
2. What two things did you learn?

Review:

1. How did we go applying the insights?
2. How did we go sharing?

Then continue to the next story!

## **SMALL GROUP PRINCIPLES – Discovery Bible Reading Groups**

Foster the best small group principles in your *Discovery Bible Reading* groups –

- Respect each person's experience.
- Do not read or pray around the circle.
- Always includes unchurched and/or lost people.
- Keep to an agreed time-frame (usually about 1 hour).
- Have a clear path of Bible reading and discovery.
- Multiply through new relational streams by the time the group grows to 12 people.
- Coaching and support for those fostering small groups (leaders and apprentices).

Follows a simple, reproducible plan (times are suggestions) –

- *Connecting* (5 min)
  - Who did we meet for the first time this week?
  - What did we learn about them?
- *Sharing* (10 min) - accountability
  - How did we go applying what we learnt last time?
  - Who did we share with since we met?
- *Discovery Bible Reading* (30 min)
  - Prayer
  - Read the next section of the Bible book
  - 5 bookmark questions
- *Application - discussion* (15 min)
  - Accountability: all discuss Questions 4 & 5 of the bookmark questions
  - Plan a 'service project' together, to meet community needs
  - Prayer

Healthy groups multiply at least every 12 months –

- Making disciples is our primary mission. How does your small groups foster the five purposes outlined in Matthew 22:37-38 and 28:18-20? (see page 30)
- Who are new disciples in your small group who can now make new disciples?
- Who is connected to another relational streams where a new group could start?
- What support systems do you have in place for those leading small groups?
  - Coaching?
  - Affirmation (at church)?
  - Training (workshops, retreats)?

### 3. CULTIVATE so the crop grows 'by itself'

**Discovery Bible Reading** provides a great method of sowing gospel seed – for use in small groups, with friends and contacts. How do we cultivate the growing interest? Here are a range of ideas for cultivating the interest that God is growing.

Using Discovery Bible Reading with uneducated people.

Using discovery Bible Reading in Sabbath School classes.

Using Discovery Bible Reading in church—for the sermon.

#### [1] Answering questions

##### QUESTIONS:

- (1) **If a person or the group does not understand something:** Keep reading!
- (2) **If a person asks a question on a difficult subject** – for example, death, second coming, resurrection, or Sabbath, suggest: 'Sometime, let us read a story about Jesus and (the subject they ask about).'

#### LEARNING from the order of Revelation 14:6-13

Stage 1: Context (Revelation 12-14) – what is the group's background?

Stage 2: Eternal gospel (Revelation 14:6) – what themes lead to Jesus?

Stage 3: Practical Christian living (*fear God*) (Revelation 14:7) – how to type themes?

Job 28:28; Proverbs 8:13 – to *fear God* is to turn to wise living.

Stage 4: Distinctive doctrines (Revelation 14:7) – which would you include?

Stage 5: Heavy prophecy (Revelation 14:8-12) – such as *dragon, beast, false prophet*.

Stage 6: Mission (Revelation 14:13) – equipping needs to be at each stage.

**THIS SEQUENCE** provides a flow for sharing faith and answering questions:

- A person is new to your group and asks: ‘What happens when a friend dies?’ This is a Stage 4 question, but the person is at Stage 1. How could you answer this question in a Stage 1 way?
- Someone at Stage 2 (who has accepted Jesus) asks about the antichrist – which is a Stage 5 question? How could you respond, using a Stage 2 or 3 answer?

Questions from the next stage might suggest it is time to move to that stage of sharing.

**VALUES:** What values arise from the context and messages of the three angels?

### **RELATING to other denominations**

## **[2] Introducing ‘Elementary Teachings’ (Hebrews 6:1-2)**

Identify elementary teaching of the Christian faith – the starting point for faith:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Explore other stories from the life of Jesus that illustrate these '**elementary teachings**' (repentance,<sup>1</sup> faith, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection, and judgment) and the other **commands of Jesus** –

Here are some stories from the Gospels that cover these *elementary teachings* –

1. Repentance – Luke 19:1-10
2. Faith – Mark 5:21-43
3. Baptisms (water/Spirit) – Matthew 3:1-17; Acts 2:1-47
4. Laying on of hands – Luke 5:12-16; Acts 13:1-5
5. Resurrection – John 11:1-44
6. Judgement – John 5:1-30

Here are some *commands of Jesus*

1. Repent and Believe – Luke 19:1-10
2. Be baptized – Matthew 3:1-17
3. Pray – Luke 11:1-13
4. Love (new life/obey) – Luke 10:25-42
5. Receive the Holy Spirit – John 14:1-23
6. Go make disciples – Matthew 28:16-20; John 4:1-42
7. Share the Lord's Supper – Luke 22:7-20
8. Give – Mark 12:41-44

What others would you suggest?

**BELIEFS:** List your key biblical beliefs and write a summary of each, using language that people who are not Christians will understand.

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<sup>1</sup> The 'goodness' or 'kindness' of God leads to repentance (Romans 2:4).

### [3] After reading the Gospel of Mark

**Other Bible Books:** Encourage the group to explore other Bible books, still using *Discovery Bible Reading* and the 5 bookmark questions:

- Acts – if ready to start forming into a new church.

- John – if ready to explore all the fundamentals:

The being and nature of God	1:1-18
The Word of God	1:1-2; 5:31-47
Jesus - Creator and Saviour	1:3, 4, 10
Sanctuary ministry	1:29; 2:12-25; 6:1-15; 7:1-43; 19:28-42
Baptism	1:29-34; 3:5, 22-36
Human nature and salvation	3:1-21
Forgiveness, new life and witness	4:1-38
Sabbath - life through Jesus	5:1-47
Death and resurrection to life	5:21-29; 11:1-44
Two resurrections	5:28-29
Resurrection on the last day	6:25-71
Holy Spirit - Counselor and Presence	7:25-43; 14-16
Commandments and grace	8:1-11
Real disciples - the 'church'	8:31-47
Sabbath - sign that Jesus is God	8:48-10:42
The glory of God and judgment	12:20-50
Foot-washing and Lord's Supper	13:1-38
Second coming of Jesus	14:1-3
The presence of Jesus - 'Christ in Us'	14:12-23
Prayer	17:1-26
Salvation story	18:1-20:9
Resurrection body	20:10-31
Great commission	20:21-23; 21:1-25
Restitution - restoration	21:15-23

- Other Gospels and the New Testament Epistles.

**Bible stories** from the Old and New Testaments.

- Use *Discovery Bible Reading* to explore books like Genesis, Exodus and the history and story books of the Old Testament—but not Leviticus or Numbers. Select stories from these books—as also from the Major and Minor Prophets.
- Use *Discovery Bible Reading* to explore the stories of Daniel—but not the heavy prophecies of Daniel or Revelation.

## **[4] Introducing seminars and evangelistic meetings**

**Invite your pastor** to visit your group/s to help them grow in their faith and understanding of God's Word. Invite them to conduct 5-6 seminars, workshops and evangelistic meetings – once or twice each week. You could plan two series (separated by some weeks continuing with *Discovery Bible Reading*):

1. Daniel and Revelation.

2. Bible doctrines.

Always get the group back into reading books of the Bible again.

**What is the role of public evangelism?**

**How do you ensure the crop is growing 'all by itself'?**

# CHURCH PLANTING

## 4. HARVEST – gathering new plants

### WHAT IS CHURCH?

1. What did Jesus say about church?

- **Matthew 16:13-21; 18:15-20** - Jesus used the word 'church' on two occasions.

The church is given *the keys to kingdom*.

The basic unit of church – *the two or three gathered in His name*.

The church is founded upon *sacrificial love*.

2. What do we learn about the reason for church from Jesus?

- **Matthew 22:36-40** – *the great commandments*

Worship:

Ministry:

- **Matthew 28:16-20** – *the great commission*

Evangelism:

Community:

Christlikeness:

3. What characterised the Jerusalem church?

- **Acts 2:42-47**
- **Acts 4:4** – by this time, what did the church look like in Jerusalem?

4. What was a key ingredient of worship gatherings?

- **1 Corinthians 14:26:**

5. How will God's special message to prepare people for Jesus' coming define church?

- **Revelation 14:6-13** – *God's special message* for today.

The word church means gathering. It is a gathering of disciples.

- The *body of Christ* (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- Each person has spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

In the New Testament *church* was never buildings, institutions or denominations.

- How did the idea of buildings, institutions and denominations start?
- Who planted the church in Antioch – and how? **Acts 11:19-26**

### **WHY PLANT CHURCHES?**

1. To reach new people.
2. To put disciple making back on our agenda.
3. To equip new leaders.
4. To build a fresh relationship with God – for all as missionaries (Acts 1:8).
5. So established churches can experience new life (Acts 8-10, 14-15).
6. To put us in tune with God's missionary heart – at work outside the church.
7. To take us to where the Spirit is working outside the church (Acts 10-11, 16:9, 17).
8. To pass on faith and church to next generations (Acts 13:1-4).  
It is the way the next generation takes ownership of the church.  
Church planting is not a program – it is the way the next generation of church is cultivated by the next generation of believers.  
Young people find a new relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit as they plant new churches.
9. To compel the church to engage with the culture and the future of church (Acts 17).
10. To put us in touch with our New Testament and faith heritage – reminding us of our origins as a planting movement. A church planting movement reaches new people, with newly planted churches extending God's kingdom.

## SOME THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR CHURCH PLANTING

1. *God's Triune Being & Activity*: John 17:21. Created 'in His likeness' (Gen 1:26) He seeks to dwell with us, as His 'body' – in the world.
2. *God is the missionary (missio Dei)*: John 3:16. Mission is not primarily a human activity. It flows from God's heart – and is His activity.
3. *God became 'flesh and blood' to save us (incarnation)*: John 1:14. God 'became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood'. (Eugene Peterson, *The Message*, 2002) God saves us through complete identification with us – and the method for sharing this is: our incarnation/identification in our communities.
4. *God's kingdom vision*: Luke 4:18-19. Church planters are challenged to grow God's kingdom in people's lives – an imperative for established and new churches.

5. *God's temple/body*: Ephesians 2:19-22 – we are God's household.

*An equipped mature people.* (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Consider the APEPT<sup>1</sup> principles – How are these gifts to be used? (verses 11-13)

How many believers in a church of 20 manifest each of the equipping gifts? (verse 11)

6. *Oneness in Christ*: 1 Peter 2:1-10; Galatians 3:26-29. All believers are to minister.
  - What do we learn about the nature of church?
  - What does a 'royal priest' do in the kingdom of God?
  - How do you involve every person as a 'royal priest'?
  - What roles of service in church are for 'Jews' or 'slaves' only?
  - What service or ministry should not be shared with 'males' – or 'females'?

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<sup>1</sup> Apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher



## **WHAT IS NEEDED FOR A NEW CHURCH TO BE SUSTAINABLE?**

- Leadership from within.
- Clear purpose (Acts 2:42-47; Revelation 14:6-13).
- Equipped disciples able to lead others to Jesus and multiply by equipping them to –
  - Share their testimonies.
  - Invite others to Jesus – and lead *Discovery Bible Reading* groups.
- Facilities that do not create a debt burden.
- Able to conduct worship without a visiting preacher.
- Simple to start – and reproducible.
- Have clear values or attitudes.
- Clear beliefs.
- Functional structures.

## **KEY BELIEFS**

How do fundamental beliefs or doctrines define your church plant for your community?

Who are the people in your community?

What key beliefs will be important for their experiences?

## ESSENTIAL VALUES OR ATTITUDES

List essential, distinctive and realistic values that will govern how your new church plant will relate within and with the community – with key actions that will flow from each:

Value—we value (examples):

Actions (examples):

- |   |                                  |   |  |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | The priesthood of all believers. | 1 | Our leaders will include women and youth.                  |
| 2 | Community.                       | 2 | We welcome all—even if different.                          |
| 3 | <i>Discovery Bible Reading.</i>  | 3 | We will it at least once each week.                        |
| 4 | Safe Places.                     | 4 | Our gatherings will be safe places for women and children. |
| 5 |                                  | 5 |  |
| 6 |                                  | 6 |  |
| 7 |                                  | 7 |  |

## FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURES:

### Personnel:

1. Who will do the tasks and how?
2. How will decisions be made?

### Network:

3. How will this gathering relate to the Mission/Conference?
4. Is this a direct relationship or through a 'parent' church?

### Finances:

5. How will tithes/offerings be collected and returned to the Mission/Conference?

### Legal:

6. What moral, legal and ethical responsibilities need to be met?
  - Working with Children:
  - Safe Places:
  - Boundaries:
  - Insurance:

## 5. MULTIPLY - disciples and churches

The DNA of multiplication must be built into the plan of multiplying disciples from the start.

**JESUS** laid the foundations of a *sustainable* and *multiplying* disciple making movement.

- What did Jesus hand on to His disciples when He ascended? Acts 1:4-8

His model and teachings:

His Spirit:

**PAUL** pioneered the planting of multiple churches – the movement of disciple making.

Review Paul's missionary journeys and identify the key principles and actions he took:

1. Journey 1: **Acts 13:1-14:28**      **Following *relational streams* (*ethne*)**

How did Paul multiply leaders and churches?

Finding key *persons-of-peace*:

2. Journey 2: **Acts 15:36-18:22**      **Planting in household (*oikos*)**

How did Paul use households to multiply churches?

How did this multiply leaders and disciples?

3. Journey 3: **Acts 18:23-21:16**      **Establishing a *hub of church planting***

Describe the *hub of church planting* at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-20):

- How did Paul equip church planting teams?
- Where did they plant?

- How could your churches or plants become hubs of church planting?
  - Where would you find the church planting teams?
  
  - How would you equip the church planting teams?

What was the important role of *people-of-peace* in Paul's church planting – and how are they encouraged and supported by pastors, elders and deacons/deaconesses?

Pastors  
(apostles)

Persons-of-peace  
(house leaders)

Elders

Deacons/Deaconesses

What part could they play in your church planting?

### **ARE YOU COUNTING THE RIGHT NUMBERS?**

Disciples make and multiply disciples, resulting in a multiplication of churches.

**List the disciple makers in your team/church (not members):**

**Who are you equipping to plant another church?**

**Where will they plant?**

**MULTIPLICATION PLAN:** Every healthy church **reproduces** and **multiplies**.

How are you cultivating an environment of multiplication?

1. Encouragement (fan every interest):
2. 'Grand-parenting' (releasing):
3. Simple church models (reproducible):
4. Cultivate Holy Spirit presence:
5. Search for another 'person-of-peace':

### **A common blockage – members are not disciples**

1. What is the purpose of most church programs?

In many churches most activities or programs are designed to 'build' the members. This is a blockage – for members sit in church and few connect or engage unbelievers. Rather than programs to 'build' – we need to involve, equip and release people as disciples.

2. Where do most church people invest their time and energy?

Again, in most churches most people invest in the 'build' area – caring for the structures and systems of the church. Few are being involved, equipped and released into mission or multiplication.

3. For Jesus' disciples, involvement meant *participation* in mission. But in most churches today, involvement has come to mean: doing jobs running the church. How does this become a major *blockage* for when it comes to mission and multiplication?
4. What would be the impact of counting the right numbers – disciple-makers, not members?

## **EVALUATION and Feedback**

After 6 months, use these questions to discuss the progress of the new church plant—

1. What do we need to change?
  - What ministry needs to close or be placed in recess?
  - Where do we see the ‘fires’ of the Spirit ‘spotting’ in our community?
  - How do we ‘fan the fires’?
  - What are our strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats?
  - Are we connecting to other *relational streams*?
  - Are we multiplying – how many other churches are we currently planting?
  
2. Review: Five Foundational Scriptures
  1. Disciples multiply in relational streams (Matthew 28:18-20)
  2. Kingdom parables – working the four fields (Mark 4:26-29)
  3. Evangelism, gathering and multiplication (Luke 10:1-24)
  4. Holy Spirit activity (Acts 1:1-2:47)
  5. As His body (1 Corinthians 12:27), churches are to live like Jesus (Philippians 2:1-11)

# ROADMAP for multiplying disciples & churches

District:

District Director:

Church name:

## **AWARENESS & TRAINING**

- How will all members be equipped to make new disciples?
- When will this happen?

## **TEAMS – reorganization to form teams**

### **For places that are close:**

- How will Sabbath School classes, Youth & Women's ministry be reorganised?
- When will this happen?

### **For places that are distant:**

- List the places you will visit to find *persons of peace* to lead new work:
- Who will be the team?
- When will this happen?

## **PLACES**

List all the places where new churches are needed in your area/District:

List a date when these churches will be planted:

## **MULTIPLY**

How will all new disciples be equipped as disciple makers?

When will this training be done?

How will each new church be equipped to plant new churches?

When will this training be done?

# CHURCH PLANTING PROJECT PLAN

Your name:

Your church:

Your pastor:

Place where you will plant:

1. Team: (usually 4)
2. Place: Describe the people and place where you will work.

List any *persons-of-peace* you can already identify:

3. Mission: Why will this church plant exist?

List 3 or 4 scriptures that support your mission:

4. Vision: What is your vision for your new church plant?

How many disciple makers do you want to equip?

How many churches will your new church plant in the next two years?

Where will they be planted? Name the places:

5. Beliefs: What key beliefs will be important for the experience of your community?

6. Values and actions: Make a list of your values and the actions to cultivate them:

Values:

Actions:

7. Disciple-making: What steps will you take to move an unbeliever to be a disciple-maker?

What place will *Discovery Bible Reading* have in this journey?

What training events will fit into this journey?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8. Multiplication: Describe how your church plant will multiply—

*Discovery Bible Reading* groups:

Multiply church plants:

9. Feed Back: When and how will you evaluate whether God is pleased:

Share this project plan with a number of people – including an experienced church planter or church planting mentor – to get further ideas.

Submit this plan to your Conference/Mission President and church planting coordinator.

Name:

Date:

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## Notes

## Notes



*South Pacific*

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES